

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached set of replacement drawings corresponds to the previously filed substitute specification.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 23, 2005.

Claims 1-5 and 25-50 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 6-24 have been cancelled, and claims 25-50 have been added. Claims 1 - 5 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 8, 10, 14-18 and 23 are objected to by the Examiner. Claims 8, 14, and 23 have been represented as new claims 43, 46, and 50, respectively. Please note the preamble in these new claims has been amended to correct matters of form. Reconsideration of the pending claims is requested for reasons presented herein.

The Examiner has objected to the Substitute Specification. Applicant is submitting herewith a set of replacement drawings that correspond to the substitute specification. These replacement drawings were inadvertently not included with the filing of the substitute specification. Applicant further submits that the substitute specification does not contain any new matter. The Abstract has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 19-22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Snider*, U.S. Patent No. 6,536,520.

Snider discloses a top drive casing system having a torque head for gripping tubular members. *Snider* does not teach, show, or suggest transmitting data from the second gripping member to a controller and ensuring the second gripping member is engaged with the tubular string, as recited in new claim 25. *Snider* also does not teach, show, or suggest locking the first gripping member in the closed position and sending a signal to the controller that the first gripping member is in the closed position, as recited in new claim 26. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the reference cited by the Examiner does not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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